

Message Text

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63

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01

ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-13 /148 W

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R 091317Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9062

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT BAGHDAD

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OPEC, AU

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SUBJ: OPEC-PRESS CONFERENCE OF CHIEF FEYIDE

1. CHIEF M.O. FEYIDE, OPEC SECRETARY GENERAL, HELD AN INFORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE ON JULY 6 WHICH WAS ORGANIZED AT INITIATIVE OF FOREIGN PRESS CLUB OF VIENNA. ABOUT 50 FOREIGN AND AUSTRIAN JOURNALISTS ATTENDED.

2. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF SECRETARY GENERAL'S REMARKS AS REPORTED BY AUSTRIAN PRESS:

A. OPEC IS SEARCHING INTENSIVELY FOR A NEW OPEC HEAD-QUARTERS BUILDING IN VIENNA. NEXT MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE (THAT IS HELD IN VIENNA) WILL BE IN A LARGER AND MORE SUITABLE BUILDING THAN PRESENT HEADQUARTERS.

B. AN INCREASE IN CRUDE OIL PRICES IS POSSIBLE AT ANY TIME, EVEN BEFORE THE DEC 15 QATAR CONFERENCE MEETING. THE DECISION AT BALI TO FREEZE PRICES WAS DUE TO THE UNFAVORABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION AND OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR NON-OIL PRODUCING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. BUT SITUATION IS NOW CHANGED AND ECONOMIC COMMISSION WILL MEET IN VIENNA AGAIN IN AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER TO EXAMINE ALL ASPECTS INCLUDING (A) INFLATION IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND ITS EFFECTS ON OPEC STATES IN FORM OF PRICE INCREASES FOR IMPORTED INDUSTRIAL GOODS, (B) THE OFT-DISCUSSED INDEXATION, AND (C) PROBLEMS OF FREIGHT AND QUALITY DIFFERENTIALS FOR THE APPROXIMATELY 60 DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPEC CRUDE OIL. FEYIDE SAID EITHER HE OR A MINISTER COULD CALL AT ANY TIME FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE MEETING. HOWEVER, NO SUCH PROPOSAL HAS AS YET BEEN MADE.

C. ENERGY TALKS BETWEEN DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN FRAMEWORK OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE ARE PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY. FEYIDE PERSONALLY EXPECTS THAT GOOD PROGRESS WILL BE MADE ON ENERGY AND RAW MATERIAL PROBLEMS IN THE NEXT MEETING IN PARIS ON JULY 12.

3. IN PHONE CALL WITH HAMID ZAHERI, HEAD OF OPEC INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, EMBOFF WAS GIVEN IMPRESSION THAT AUSTRIAN PRESS REPORTING OF SECRETARY GENERAL'S REMARKS WAS ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE. ZAHERI CONFIRMED THAT ECONOMIC COMMISSION WILL MEET IN AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER AND SAID EXACT DATE HAS NOT YET BEEN FIXED. APROPOS REPORTING IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARAGRAPH 2(A) ABOVE, HOWEVER, ZAHERI COMMENTED THAT OPEC IS SEARCHING FOR A BUILDING TO OCCUPY UNDER ONE-YEAR LEASE, SINCE THE MINISTERS HAVE NOT YET SETTLED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OPEC WILL STAY HERE OR MOVE.BUCHANAN

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